Delay in payment of amount of fellowship to Research Scholar

4005. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will tre PRIME MINISTER be peased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Research Scholars are getting the amount of their fellowship in year or so from the CSIR, Delhi;

(b) who is responsible for the delay in paying the amount of fellowship to the Research Scholars; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to see that the Research Scholars are paid their amount of fellowship on the 5th of every month?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) The grant is released in advance by the CSIR to the Universities/Institutes twice a year for making monthly payment of stipend to research scholars.

(b) and (c) There is normally no delay in releasing the grants to the universities/institutes by the CSIR. However, there may be unavoidable delays on the part of the universities and other research institutions in payment of stipend to research schcolars due to technical reasons procedural incompleteness and insufficient information with regard to completion of work of the research scholars concerned. There are possibilities of delays whenever the upgradation of fellowship takes place, since in such case an expert committee has to meet to assess the work of the candidate on the basis of personal interview and evaluation of the papers published by him. Although, efforts are made both by the CSIR and the universities to cut down delays in holding such meetings, it becomes difficult to agree to continue to make payment to a candidate till the evaluation of the progress of his research work is certified to be satisfactory. CSIR gets constantly in touch with the universities/research institutions to ensure that research scholars are not put to any hardship in the matter of receipt of stipend. Besides, CSIR is also taking adequate measures in quicken the procedure for the release of grants to universities and institutions.

Schemes for promotion of Science & Technology amongst NGOs

4006. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) What are the schemes of the Department of Science and Technology for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) for popularising science and technology among the younger generation;

(b) what are the various institutions managed or assisted by the Department for training of manpower in this regard; and

(c) in what manner the Department of Science and Technology is promoting entrepreneurs and creating more job opportunities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) A scheme titled, "Science Communication and Popularisation" is being operated through the National Council for Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC).

(b) The institutions that have been assisted for regular training of manpower/resource persons for science communication are: (i) Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai; (ii) Pondicherry University, Pondicherry; (iii) Science Association of Bengal, Calcutta; (iv) Devi Ahilya Viswavidyalaya, Indore (v) Luckow University, Lucknow (vi) Centre for Development of Imaging Technology, Kerala.

(c) The Department of Science and Technology through the National Science and Technology Enterpreneurship Development Board is promoting entrepreneurship among S&T persons through various programmes such as: Entrepreneurship Awareness Camp (EAC), Entrepreneurship Development Training Programme (EDP), Science and Technology Entrepreneurs Park (STEP), Science and Technology Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (STEDS), Entrepreneurship Development Cell (EDC), Skill Development programmes and incentive schemes.

Threat to the functioning of research in the Department of Biotechnology

4007. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item published in the daily Hindu dated the 3rd April, 1995 about the threat to the functioning of research in the Department of Biotechnology because of the tussle between its scientific and administrative staff; and

(b) the steps taken to help the scientists working in the Department of Biotechnology to implement their proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE AND MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Department of Biotechnology, as per its mandate, supports research and development in biotechnology. The programmes are implemented by academic and research institutions and national laboratories in the country. With the help of the scientists of the Department and Expert Task Forces, reseach and development projects are identified, processed, evaluated and monitored. Continuous efforts have been made to streamline various procedures for expeditious and successful implementation of the programmes in this field. Further, necessary steps are also being taken to ensure smooth functioning of the Department to keep pace with the rapid advances taking place in the field of biotechnology all over the world.

Progress in rocket and satellite technology

4008. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the country in rocket and satellite technology; and

(b) the progress made so far in the development of cryogenic engines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE AND MNISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) (i) Progress made in rocket technology: With the successful launch